

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the present application:

1-20 (canceled)

21. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly comprising:

    a tubular barrel having a first opening and a second opening at opposite ends with a wall extending between said ends, said wall having an inner surface;

    a stopper slidably received in said tubular barrel and having a portion in slidable engagement with said inner surface of said tubular barrel; and

    a lubricant disposed over a limited area of at least one portion of said inner surface of said tubular barrel, said inner surface portion having an axial length greater than an axial length of said stopper.

22. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said lubricant is provided on said inner surface portion extending completely circumferentially around said inner wall but extending axially only from near said first opening along a distance that is less than an entire length of said inner surface.

23. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said second opening is an outlet.

24. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said stopper has an outer engagement surface and said lubricant is provided on a portion of said outer surface is less than an axial length of said stopper.

25. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said stopper includes an annular rib having an outer surface, and said lubricant is provided only on said outer surface of said annular rib.

26. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said lubricant is provided on said inner surface over an area extending completely circumferentially around said inner surface but extending axially from near said first opening along only a minor portion of a length of said tubular barrel, and wherein said lubricant is additionally provided on an engagement surface of said stopper in an annular pattern having an axial length smaller than an axial length of said stopper.

27. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said tubular barrel is formed of glass.

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28. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said tubular barrel is formed of a plastic material.

29. (Previously presented) A medical syringe assembly according to claim 21, wherein said lubricant comprises silicone.